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Commission on the Status of Women

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Item 4 of the provisional agenda*

Comprehensive review and appraisal of the implementation of the Platform for Action

Statement submitted by the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University, HelpAge International, the International Council of Women, the International Federation of Business and Professional Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Baha'i International Community, the Centre for Women, the Earth, the Divine, the European Women's Lobby, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Federation of University Women, the Italian Centre of Solidarity, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for International and Cultural Affairs) (International Movement of Catholic Students), the Salvation Army, Socialist International Women, the Women's International Zionist Organization and the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Council; and the European Union of Women, the International Association for Counselling, the International Inner Wheel and the World Peace Council, non-governmental organizations on the Roster of the Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraph 30 and 31 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 26 July 1996.

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We the above-mentioned international non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, members of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, Vienna:

- Welcome the adoption of the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women by the General

Assembly in its resolution 54/4 of 6 October 1999;

- Congratulate all States Parties who have signed the Optional Protocol on their speedy accession to this human rights instrument;
- Encourage Member States who have not ratified or succeeded to the Convention to do so as soon as possible so that universal ratification of the Convention can be achieved by the year 2000;
- Reaffirm our commitment to lobby Governments for support for and implementation of the aims and objectives of the Convention and its Optional Protocol;

* E/CN.6/2000/1.



- Organize a special one-day conference on 7 April 2000 in order to brief women NGO representatives, especially those from Central and Eastern Europe, on the purpose, rights and procedures of the Optional Protocol. This will inspire them to call on their respective Governments to sign and ratify the Convention and effectively enable them to make use of this human rights instrument.